

News Release



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Renewable Energy Company Saves School Program at State Park

A \$100,000 contribution from Element Power to the Fort Tejon Historical Association has allowed California State Parks to keep the Student Living History Program in operation through the 2013 season. The non-profit Fort Tejon Historical Association was established in 1983 for the preservation of Fort Tejon and its role in California history.

This contribution, made as a part of Element Power's statewide community outreach efforts, comes at a time of significant economic challenge for California State Parks as it seeks to maintain funding for its programs across the state. Element Power has several solar projects under development in California, including the 150MW Wildflower Solar project in the nearby Antelope Valley.

"The timing of this donation by Element couldn't be better," stated Kathy Weatherman, District Superintendent of the California State Parks, Tehachapi District. "With the State facing ongoing budget shortfalls, we were on the brink of losing this unique program."

The Student Living History program has been operation for 24 years. The program provides an overnight history immersion experience for children at historic Fort Tejon. The garrison is a Civil War-era Army installation that was established in 1854 in Grapevine Canyon-arguably the most important north-south corridor in California, even today. Each year hundreds of students and parents from Los Angeles and Kern Counties attend the program to learn firsthand about the fort and California History.

"As part of our commitment to support the communities where we work, Element Power is pleased to support the Student Living History program that benefits schoolchildren from such a large area," said Chris Taylor, Chief Development Officer of Element Power. "How better to learn about history than to have the chance to live it?"

Schoolchildren that participate in the Student Living History Program take on the characters and activities of the past in order to "live history." By acting like a character from the past and doing the things that character would have done, children become more aware of the historic

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environment as well as their own. School children are introduced to Fort Tejon as “new recruits” in the U.S. Army. They work together as Army recruits from the mid-nineteenth century. One lesson that they learn is that they must work together in order to succeed, just as pioneer peoples did in order to survive. In doing so, the program provides an invaluable historical experience.